

# WEBSTER'S NEW UNIVERSAL UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

DELUXE  
SECOND EDITION

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SYMBOLS, AND FORMS OF ADDRESS

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**Dorset & Baber**

# WEBSTER'S NEW TWENTIETH CENTURY DICTIONARY

Second Edition

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A Simon & Schuster Division of Gulf & Western Corporation  
Simon & Schuster Building  
Rockefeller Center  
1230 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10020  
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*Dictionary Editorial Offices*  
*New World Dictionaries*  
850 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Manufactured in the United States of America

DW 20 19 18 17 16 15

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 83-42537

ISBN 0-671-41819-X

Previous editions of this book were published by The World Publishing Company,  
William Collins + World Publishing Co., Inc.  
and William Collins Publishers, Inc.

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## variometer

**vār-i-om'ē-tēr**, *n.* [from *L. varius*, various; and *-meter*.]  
 1. an instrument for comparing magnetic forces or determining variations of magnetic force, especially at different places on the earth.  
 2. an instrument for varying inductance in an electric circuit, consisting of a movable coil within a fixed coil, the two connected in series; used in radio tuning.  
**vār-i-ō-rum**, *n.* [L., of various (scholars).] an edition or text, as of a literary work, containing variant readings or notes by various editors, scholars, etc.  
**vār-i-ō-rum**, *a.* of such an edition or text.  
**vār-i-ous**, *a.* [*L. varius*, diverse.]  
 1. differing one from another; of several kinds.  
 2. several; many; as, *various* sections of the country.  
 3. many-sided; versatile.  
 4. characterized by variety; varied in nature or appearance.  
 5. changeable. [Rare.]  
**vār-i-ous-ly**, *adv.* in various ways; with change; with diversity; as, flowers *variously* colored.  
**vār-i-ous-ness**, *n.* variety.  
**vār-i-scite**, *n.* [from *Variscia*, in Saxony.] a transparent, green, hydrous phosphate of aluminum.  
**vār'ix**, *n.*; *pl.* **vār'i-cēs**, [L.] 1. in medicine, a permanently and irregularly swollen or dilated blood or lymph vessel, especially a vein; a varicose vein.  
 2. in conchology, any of the longitudinal thickened elevations which occur at irregular intervals on the outer surface of spiral shells.  
**vār'let**, *n.* [OFr. *varlet*, *vastet*.]  
 1. an attendant. [Archaic.]  
 2. a boy or youth serving as a knight's page. [Archaic.]  
 3. a rascal; scoundrel; knave. [Archaic.]  
 4. in playing cards, the knave or jack. [Obs.]  
**vār'let-ess**, *n.* a girl or woman varlet. [Obs.]  
**vār'let-ry**, *n.* 1. varlets collectively. [Archaic.]  
 2. the rabble; the crowd; the mob. [Archaic.]  
**vār'mint**, **vār'ment**, *n.* [var. of dial. *vermin*, with unhistoric *-t*.] vermin; especially, a person or animal regarded as troublesome or objectionable; also used as a generalized epithet of disparagement. [Dial. or Colloq.]  
**vār'nish**, *n.* [ME. *vernisch*; OFr. *vernis*, varnish.]  
 1. (a) a preparation made of resinous substances dissolved in oil (*oil varnish*) or in a liquid like alcohol which evaporates quickly (*spirit varnish*), and used to give a glossy surface to wood, metal, etc.; (b) any of various natural or prepared products used for the same purpose.  
 2. the smooth, hard, glossy surface of this after it has dried.  
 3. a surface gloss or smoothness, as of manner; outward attractiveness, often deceptive.  
**vār'nish**, *v.t.*; **vār'nish** (the *-n*), *pt.*, *pp.*; **vār'nish**, *pp.* [OFr. *verniss*, to varnish.]  
 1. to cover with varnish; to brush varnish on.  
 2. to impart a smooth surface to, as with varnish; to give a varnished appearance to.  
 3. to make attractive on the surface; to embellish, often deceptively.  
 And bow the knee to pomp that loves to varnish guilt.  
 4. to polish up; to brighten.  
**vār'nish-ēr**, *n.* one who varnishes or whose occupation is varnishing.  
**vār'nish-ing**, *n.* the act of laying on varnish; also, varnish.  
**vār'nish-ing dāy**, a day previous to the opening of an art exhibit, when the artists are given the opportunity of retouching or varnishing their pictures.  
**vār'nish tree**, any one of various trees which exude resinous juices, either naturally or from incisions, which can be made into a lacquer or varnish.  
*black, Burmese, or Martaban varnish tree*; the theetsee.  
*false varnish tree*; same as *tree of heaven* under *tree*.  
*Japan varnish tree*; the lacquer tree.  
*New Granada varnish tree*; a rubiaceous tree of South America, *Elzagia utilis*.  
**vār'si-ty**, *n.*; *pl.* **vār'si-ties**, [contr. from *university* in 18th-c. pronun.] a team, usually athletic, that represents a university, college, or school in any competition.

**vār'si-ty**, *a.* designating or of a university, college, or school team or competition.  
**vār-sō-vi-enne'**, *n.* [Fr., of Warsaw.] a 19th-century dance resembling the polka, redowa, and mazurka; also, the music for the dance.  
**vār'tā-bed**, **vār'tā-bet**, *n.* [Armenian.] one of an order of ecclesiastics in the Armenian church intermediate between the bishops and priests, and devoted to teaching.  
**Var'y-nā**, *n.* [Sans.] the Hindu god of the cosmos, represented in the Vedic hymns as of very great and manifold powers. He is depicted as four-armed and riding on a sea animal.



VARUNA

**vār'us**, *a.* [Mod. L., from L., bent, grown inward.] an abnormal turning inward of the foot so as to produce bowleg.

**vār'us**, *a.* bowlegged.

**vār've**, *n.* [Sw. *varp*, layer.] in geology, a layer in a deposit of sedimentary material, showing seasonal variation caused by differences in summer and winter deposition; characteristic of certain recent deposits in glaciated regions, and used to estimate the length of glacial and interglacial periods.

**vār'vel**, *n.* in falconry, a ring attached to the end of a hawk's jess and used to fasten the jess to the leash.

**vār'veled**, **vār'velled**, *a.* having varvels or rings; in heraldry, designating a bearing in which the leather thongs or jesses which tie on the bells to the legs of hawks are borne floatant with rings at the ends.

**vār'y**, *v.t.*; **vār'y**, *pt.*, *pp.*; **vār'y**, *pp.* [ME. *varien*; OFr. *varier*, from *L. variare*, to vary, change, from *varius*, various.]  
 1. to change in form, appearance, nature, substance, etc.; to alter; to modify.  
 2. to make different from one another.  
 3. to give variety to; to diversify; as, *vary* your reading.  
 4. in music, to repeat (a melody or theme) with changes in harmony, rhythm, key, etc.

**vār'y**, *v.i.* 1. to undergo change in any way; to become different.  
 2. to be different or diverse; to differ; as, the second edition *varied* little from the first.  
 3. to deviate, diverge, or depart (from).  
 4. to alter in succession; to alternate.  
 5. in biology, to show variation.  
 6. in mathematics, to change (directly or inversely) in the same ratio.  
 7. to disagree; to be at variance in opinion. [Obs.]

**vār'y**, *n.* alteration; change.  
**vār'y-ing**, *a.* altering; changing; deviating.  
*varying hare*; a hare, *Lepus variabilis*, whose coat of fur becomes white in winter.

**vas**, *n.*; *pl.* **vā'sā**, [L., a vessel, dish.] in anatomy and biology, a vessel; a duct.

**vā'sāl**, *a.* relating to a vessel or duct; pertaining to the blood vessels.

**vas'cū-lār**, *a.* [*L. vasculum*, a small vessel, dim. of *vas*, a vessel, dish.] of or having vessels or ducts; specifically, (a) in anatomy and zoology, designating or of the vessels, or system of vessels, for conveying blood or lymph; (b) in botany, designating or of the ducts for conveying sap.

**vascular bundle**; in botany, a cluster of fibers and vessels.

**vascular plants**; plants whose structure is characterized by vascular tissue; the phanerogamous division of plants.

**vascular system**; in botany, the arrangement of all the vascular tissue in a plant.

**vascular tissue**; in botany, tissue composed of the ducts that carry sap through any of the higher plants.

**Vas-cū-lār'ēs**, *n. pl.* one of two great divisions of plants, consisting of those in which vascular tissue appears, and thus including all the

## vasotrophic

phanerogamous plants, both exogenous and endogenous; vascular plants. [Obs.]

**vas-cū-lār'i-ty**, *n.*; *pl.* **vas-cū-lār'i-ties**, vascular form or condition.

**vas'cū-lār-i-zā'tion**, *n.* vascularity.

**vas'cū-lōse**, *n.* the substance constituting the principal part of the vascular tissue of plants.

**vas'cū-lōse**, *a.* of, full of, or supplied by or with ducts or vessels; vascular.

**vas'cū-lous**, *a.* vasculose.

**vas'cū-lum**, *n.*; *pl.* **vas'cū-lā**, [L., a small vessel.]  
 1. in botany, an ascidium.  
 2. a botanist's metal case for carrying specimens as he collects them.

**vas de'fe-rens**, *n.*; *pl.* **vā'sā def'ēr-en'tiā** (-shi-ā), the convoluted excretory duct of a testicle, conveying sperm from the testicle to the ejaculatory duct of the penis.

**vāse** (or *vāz*; *Brit.* *vāz*), *n.* [Fr., from *L. vasum*, a collateral form of *vas*, a vessel, dish.]  
 1. an open container of metal, glass, pottery, etc., usually rounded and of greater height than width, used for decoration, displaying flowers, etc.



GRECIAN VASES

2. in architecture, a sculptured ornament resembling a vase.

**vas-ec'tō-my**, *n.* the surgical removal of all or part of the vas deferens.

**vas'e-line**, *n.* [irregular formation, from *G. wasser*, water, and *Gr. elaion*, oil; and *-ine* (suffix used to form commercial names).] a petroleum jelly, light yellow or white, used as a lubricant or ointment; petrolatum: a trade-mark (*Vaseline*).

**Vash'ti**, *n.* [Heb. *washiti*.] in the Bible, the queen of Ahasuerus of Persia: because she refused to present herself at his command at a feast, he repudiated her: Esth. i.

**vas-i-fac'tive**, *a.* [*vasi-*, and *L. facere*, pp. of *facere*, to make.] same as *vasoformative*.

**vas'i-form**, *a.* having the form, nature, or character of a vas or tube.

**vas'ō-**, **vas'i-**, **vas-**, [from *L. vas*, a vessel.] combining forms meaning: (a) the blood vessels, as in *vasomotor*; (b) the vas deferens, as in *vasectomy*; (c) *vasomotor*.

**vas'ō-cōn-strict'ōr**, *a.* causing constriction of the blood vessels.

**vas'ō-cōn-strict'ōr**, *n.* a nerve or drug causing constriction of the blood vessels.

**vas'ō-den'tine**, *n.* [*vaso-*, and *L. dens, dentis*, a tooth.] in anatomy, a modification of dentine in which capillary tubes of the primitive vascular pulp remain uncalcified and carry red blood into the substance of the tissue.

**vas'ō-dilāt'ōr**, *a.* producing dilatation of the blood vessels.

**vas'ō-dilāt'ōr**, *n.* a vasodilator nerve or drug.

**vas'ō-form'a-tive**, *a.* in physiology, building up new blood vessels or vascular tissue.

**vas'ō-hy-për-ton'ic**, *a.* same as *vasoconstrictor*.

**vas'ō-hy-pō-ton'ic**, *a.* same as *vasodilator*.

**vas'ō-in-hib'i-tōr**, *n.* any agent or drug that inhibits the action of the vasomotor nerves.

**vas'ō-in-hib'i-tō-ry**, *a.* hindering the action of the vasomotor nerves.

**vas'ō-mō'tion**, *n.* in anatomy, the contraction or dilatation of the caliber of a blood vessel.

**vas'ō-mō'tōr**, *a.* [*vaso-* and *motor*.] in physiology, regulating the size (i.e., caliber) of blood vessels by causing contraction or dilatation: said of a nerve, nerve center, or drug.

**vas'ō-mō-tō'r-i-āl**, **vas'ō-mō-tō'r'ic**, **vas'ō-mō-tō-ry**, *a.* same as *vasomotor*.

**vas'ō-pā-rē'sis**, *n.* partial paralysis of vasomotor nerves.

**vas'ō-tō-my**, *n.*; *pl.* **vas'ō-tō-mies**, [*vaso-* and *-tomy*.] a surgical cutting of the vas deferens, as for the purpose of sterilizing sexually.

**vas'ō-ton'ic**, *a.* [*vaso-*, and *Gr. tonikos*, a tonic.] concerned in regulating the tone or tension of the blood vessels.

**vas'ō-troph'ic**, *a.* [*vaso-*, and *Gr. trophikos*, nursing.] affecting nutrition through the alteration of the caliber of the blood vessels.